A. M. A. ARCHIVES
NO. H1-9169a
FISK UNIV.

Personal

Bureau &c.

Ft. Monroe, July 8th 1866.

My Dear General;

I am grateful for the considerate manner in which you have communicated with me about sending women north from Petersburg and if my course really requires explanation, which I beg leave to offer as follows.

It being known at Boston that help could be secured here many wrote to me for women my first efforts to get women to go were great, but with little success although many had originaly agreed to go; - not wishing to disappoint applicants so generally and thus cause the scheme to fail. I told Miss Smithwick when down here, and when she asked me to send some from Petersburg, that I would take a few such; this in order to keep them alive and prevent general disappointment. I did so and sent nine women whom she sent down from Petersburg.

She has now quite a party to send; I requested her to see you about it, in order that the thing might not be done without your knowledge

I was unwilling to take them on my own responsibility, and would not have done so

She wanted transportation from Petersburg to this Point; I suggested to her to apply to you for it stating the object, and thus inform you and give you an opportunity to express approval or otherwise. She wrote you instead of making a personal visit and thus failed to get the matter before you quite as I should have liked it. With the evident intention of letting you know what we were about in order thus

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to get your indorsement upon it.

Satisfactory arrangements are being made in Boston to put this enterprise on a most favorable basis of late it has highly prospered; and I have just communicated with Mr O.S. St. John head of a charitable employment office in New York City, to get labourers there without Govt transportation. I hope to do it.

I am maturing an extensive and rigorous scheme for getting freedmen back to their country, one which will give Govt. Supts. plenty to do, and would very much like to consult with you. My idea in short is this. Make every arrangement to get them back — offer if possible the alternative of going to Florida or other good place — fully acquaint the freedmen with their opportunities — urge them to accept, and then if they stupidly refuse Let them suffer. They have got to learn something through the school of hard experience — they have no philosophy or foresight — you cant talk it into them to any great extent; — Open the way, offer the medicine, if they won't take it let them suffer the consequences — then their eyes will be opened, and they will learn wisdom. I work as if I were going to remain. Under the new law I do not expect to — I will work up to the last hour faithfully and leave with a clear conscience. I have a good business awaiting me elsewhere. I ask for nothing for I do not need it, yet to me the service of the Freedman is the highest duty and the greatest work. If the Bureau wants me I am at its service.

Thanking you again for the kind consideration which in this matter of transportation, you have, as you ever have, shown me.

With Great Respect.
I am Yours.

Supt 9th Dist Va.,

Taken from Samuel Chapman Armstrong's Copybook, July 6, 1866-March 20, 1867.

A. M. A. ARCHIVES
NO. HI-9172a
FISK UNIV.

Fort Monroe Va., July 9th 1866.

Mrs. L. A. Grimes;

Madame

Yours of July 5th is received. There is I think, some misunderstanding which should be cleared up. Your feelings towards Lieut Goodyear seem to be very bitter, and you have in the presence of others pronounced him a scoundrel &c. &c.; and so far as you could injure his character. This is certainly not returning good for evil or doing any good to the cause of the freedman. I am surprised all the more when I remember that Lieut Goodyear, has served over five years in the war; - two years of that time under my own command, or near me and with Col'd troops. The col'd man has no better or truer friend than Lt. Goodyear.

I know him thoroughly. You have made a great mistake and done him a serious injustice and wrong. This will appear I think from what follows in explanation.

But I will begin at the beginning.

You state that without the authority or permission of yourself or your husband, and in his absence in New Bedford engaged in the business of the theological institute; I have advertised for aid in your name about getting girls from Virginia at your office in Boston, and that you have had in consequence great trouble in answering the door bell - &c &c all of which was a hundred dollars worth of trouble. &c.

This is a grave and serious accusation It means that I have done you great injustice What is the truth? I never put one line

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into the newspapers; then how did it come out?
I wrote your husband a long letter telling him all about the chances of getting servant girls, and help here. That is all I ever wrote to any one in Boston, except to answer letters that came from there. The next thing there was quite an article in the Boston Journal, dated May 7th 1860. which I always supposed your husband had put in. Who else could have done it? Then letters came asking for servants in granteria and I arranged with you to take them — I was anxious you should do it, for I thought you would do the best you could by the freedpeople; you have my letter about it. I also sent persons to call and get girls at your place which I sent to Boston. — I never put it in the papers, nor asked any one to do it

You had some trouble about your fee; as soon as I found it out, I wrote to those who got girls from you to pay it. I have taken no liberties whatever, and done every justice by you I possibly could.

Your letters gave me plainly to understand that you did this, from sympathy with your own race and I highly respected your course. You had you said, considerable expense & trouble.

I then resolved not to make you this trouble, but to get some one to do it who had plenty of time and money. Did you not tell Mr Goodyear the same about your love for your people, but that the work was too severe, and that you would like some one else to take it?

I therefore sent him with 80 people to Boston Saturday before last telling him to give the women he had to those who had first written for them, and to those who had expected them of you — that is those who had first applied were most anxious; this in order to relieve you and satisfy disappointed people

More than that I had expended from ten to fifteen

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dollars in begging shoes &c for the girls whom I sent. I paid all Mr Goodyears expenses, both on the voyage, and at the hotel — his salary is very small — he is one of my clerks, and as I sent him I paid most of his expenses out of my own pocket — the Govt. will not do it, I had already paid out ($128.00) one hundred and twenty eight dollars, and to make this good, for I cannot afford it, I told him to collect the sum of $6.00 for each girl, the man who employed her on condition that this money should not be deducted from the girls wages; and only to give the girls to those who had written for them.

Further I told him not to collect it from them all, but from those who had the best girls, and could afford to pay for getting a good servant; he intended not to charge any fee for at least ten of them. He did all this — I told him to — he collected the sum of ($60) sixty dollars in this manner, upon my authority, in order to partially reimburse me for the expenditure I had made, of this he paid $22. for fare on the boat for the meals the people had after arriving. Now see how much I made out of it — have you it still in your heart to call Lt. Goodyear a swindler when he himself has expended at least $80.00 for this cause, besides what I have!

You say he sold the girls — Dont you charge a fee of one dollar? If he sells them then you do, and every one who asks a fee.

Your language to him was in the highest degree unchristian and unjust

What business had the Agent of the boat to send you word; that 70. people were sent to you? I did not tell him to do it, He did that on his own responsibility and without my authority. You say you had all the trouble

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the truth is. I did not wish to make you any trouble at all, believing honestly that the care of 80 people more than one half men, was lost much on you, was I not right in thinking so? I thus sent Mr Goodyear at my expense to save you trouble — this effort cost me considerable money and yet Mr Goodyear is a swindler.

You said the people were "sold without discretion or judgment." That is not so. Every one was seriously promised and I know all about the people who have them. They were the first promised — they wrote me long ago about the girls.

Further I told Lt. Goodyear to see you about those who had first been promised servants and to give as many girls as he could for your disposal, and, so, in all cases allow you your fee and fully satisfy you.

But our twenty of the girls ran away, as he wrote me, they were enticed from the Ship by meddling people — girls who were intended for you, at least some of them.
He could not help this, it was not his fault, he was instructed to do full justice to you and intended to do so — but his girls ran away and he could not, — he went to see you, and what treatment did he get?

I was very anxious you should be reim=bursed for all your expenses in this work.
How much have you lost by the enterprise?
You have suffered much trouble — you are not the only one who has — but I took the work out of your hands, as I supposed, at your own wish.
It is true you wrote me that you wanted women but you would take no men — I had forty to send could you have taken them? Then would you have me send you all the women, when I had promised at least, fifteen to others, and when I had to send 40 men to Boston and Lt. Goodyear at great

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expense to take care of them? You may not know that no fee whatever was charged for the men, as it was difficult to get them places.

After one or two trips, getting everything arranged, I intended to make no charge at all — If I send two men I shall not ask a fee so as to get back the money I have lost — only so much fee, if any as will be required to pay actual expenses of sending them.

I do not know whether I shall send any more women to Boston. I have and Lt. Goodyear also, worked very hard, to get women and men to go — the result is, I have lost money and he has been shamefully abused, besides losing money.

I am not certain but am quite disposed to drop the thing altogether. If some people in Boston will volunteer to take men and women together and find them places, at little or no expense perhaps I will try to send more.

You of course have lost all confidence in this office; and I do not know but your husband, for whom I have a high respect, thinks as you do.

I much regret this unfortunate affair. No more earnest, honest effort was ever made for the freedpeople's benefit. But there can be no more trouble. It is fit and proper that our business relation should cease.

Please let me know what actual or outlay I have caused you, and I will pay you, out of my own pocket. I much regret but am not responsible for the trouble that others have caused you.

I could have, in a few weeks, made everything right, and satisfied your most anxious customers most fully.

But I suppose they all have concluded

M. A. ARCHIVES
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that this enterprise is a swindle and all engaged in it swindlers. I am sorry; but there are enough friends left to manage this undertaking, if I see fit to continue it.

Wishing to be remembered most kindly to your husband and to assure you that I shall cause you no further trouble, with my efforts for the freedpeople

I am most respectfully
Your Obt. Svt

Supt. 9th Dist Va.

A. M. A. ARCHIVES
NO. HI-9174a
FISK UNIV.

Freedmen's Bureau
Fort Monroe July 11 1866

Agent Baltimore Liverpool Steamers
Central Wharf Boston

Sir;

Will you be so kind as to inform me whether you sent under to Miss Grimes 21 Lynde Street Boston that the eighty freedpeople whom I lately forwarded by your line (per Sr Geo Appleton) were consigned to her, or sent her any message or whatever regarding them; and if so at whose request.

She claims that you sent her word that there were Eighty freedpeople consigned to her and that that message led her to expect the arrival of a party of colored people such as these in reality. She had nothing to do

Yours &c
Geo. Jenkins
Supt & Disbr.

A. M. A. ARCHIVES
NO. HI-91746
FISK UNIV.

Fort Monroe July 13th 66

Agent Baptist Freedmen
Care of Mr. Boston

Sir:

A party of colored people will probably go to Boston by the next Boat (of the 14th.) Please say or send nothing to Mrs. Grimes (28 Kneeland St.) about the matter, as she has nothing to do with it — nor let it be known to any one. The knowledge of their coming brings a crowd to the Boat upon it and would that materially interferes with the proper distribution of the party.

The authorized agent in Boston will be duly advised of this matter and may have occasion to call on you.

Truly Yours &c
Chas. Gibbs
Supt. Freedmen

A. M. A. ARCHIVES
NO. III-91-74e
FISK UNIV.

Bureau Refugees Freedmen and A.L.
Office Supt 5th Dist Va.
Fort Monroe 11 July 1866

Mr David N. Wilson
N. York City

Sir:

I am in receipt of communication addressed by you to "Agent of Bureau" at Richmond Va. making inquiries for a house-servant.

Arrangements are being made to send parties of Freedpeople to your city to obtain employment and homes: when completed, help, such as you desire, can be obtained through O.S. St Johns, Freedmen's Rooms. 76 John Street N.Y. city.

It would be difficult to find a woman willing to go alone to your place, tho she might wish employment very much, and be in great need. Effort will be made in your behalf, however, and if successful you will be notified.

Very Respectfully

Supt 5th Dist Va.

A. M. A. ARCHIVES
NO. HI-9232a
FISK UNIV.

To Lieut Col Emmons

Sept 12th 1866.

For over seven months my attention has been more or less directed to Florida as an objective point for Northern enterprise, and especially for the poor crushed out freedpeople of the South who need a refuge.

I propose a brief statement and argument, which may possibly be welcome to you; one which strongly, some days ago, suggested itself to me, and which, in the light of reflection, loses none of its effect.

First – Facts – The facts material to this matter of emigration to Florida are mainly comprised in the enclosed printed documents, which are genuine; they are what has induced Northern Capital and enterprise already to enter and occupy certain regions. A large white colony is actually preparing to go thither – Money is already invested there, by persons who have been on the ground. Quite a number of Army Officers have settled there. The New Yankee scent has tracked out there, hidden fortunes, and many are now on the track – but there is abundant room for many more. There is, in my mind, no doubt whatever of the great resources and fine possibilities of that Country.

Now the 9th is coming home soon – the men will be paid off and go home, spend their money, and then drag out their lives in the midst of people who believe "the black man has no rights which the white man is bound to respect" – will get such justice and such privileges as their old owners and enemies may see fit to give them. Northampton & Accomac Counties are in my Dist and all the "Eastern Shore" is like unto it – it is a bad place – there is not a fair chance for a colored man before the Courts. Negro testimony is not believed.

The homes, in short, to which the soldiers of the 9th are going, are not fit places for such men.

Further most of the Officers are unsettled, places are new and will be terribly hard to get, reason, reflection, good sense will teach them that the place for them is a new Country. Where shall it be?

Now the great conditions of successful colonization are organization and capacity and mutual confidence

It therefore seems to me a possible and probable success for you of the 9th who have in the highest degree the conditions of sure success to form a Colony to Florida; You are bound by the strongest ties to each other, used to subordination & perfect discipline, have the

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most thorough knowledge of each other - know just whom to take and who to leave. - Further upon being discharged will have a large amount of money in the aggregate, and, in general, no definite plan of life - for you, I say, it must be, in my opinion, the best thing you could do - fullest of promise of success, combined with many other collateral advantages. These are, Steamers to the Atlantic States - it is four or five days sail from East Florida to New York. Children can be easily sent North - it would be very easy, and cheaper far than by railroad, to take a trip North by water and thus not be banished from civilization.

The immense market of these states is very accessible - there is steam communication nearly all the way.

For the men's sakes at least, whose return to their old homes I dread, I hope this scheme, or something like it may be accomplished.

You could organize a colony of Officers and men of the Regt: take them to Florida and do well. If large enough would have your schools church, enough society for both classes, your own schooner or schooners to run here and there with or for freight, enough for mutual defense (the Indian troubles are all over) and I see nothing to hinder a great prosperity. If you settle in Texas you are banished; if in Florida you just come home, see friends - then go.

Government now offers transportation and food for the voyage, also one months rations after arrival, to all Freedmen who will go to Florida. I think you can rely on getting transportation & food for the voyage at any time. Should you attempt this I will help in every way. I am known at Genl Howard's Office; will go anywhere and do anything to aid the enterprise; and I think get at least, all that is now offered - maybe something more. General Howard is much interested personally in Florida emigration for freedpeople. He first put it into my head - he asked me to go there and help, but the Bureau Bill failed and I did not go. He has been all over Florida when an Officer and thinks it the place for freedpeople, because there they are entirely separate from Secesh neighborhood - by themselves to say nothing of the fevers of the country. He has just offered to send colored delegates (3) to inspect & report on the country, to try and induce these people to go.

I have just selected the delegates, they will be back I think before the 9th returns. Moreover Goodyear is in for it and is just going in person

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I am committed to the educational interest here, and ~~cannot~~ rightly leave while there is such a wide field of moral influence before me. It isn't yet developed fully.

Goodyear will be back and report personally which is the thing; you could then prepare intelligently – look before you leap. I think the climate of Florida which, in right places, is very healthy – would not with you be the least inducement.

Think about this. I have thought a good deal about it and would go now I'm on the "look out."

Be a "Moses" to the freedpeople and go up & possess the goodly land of Magnolias and Alligators, Oranges and Wild Indians.

Sincerely Yours

Taken from Samuel Chapman Armstrong's Copybook, July 6, 1866-March 20, 1867.

A. M. A. ARCHIVES
NO. HI-9445
FISK UNIV.

Bureau R. F. and A. L.
Ass. Com. Sufk. 5th Dist. Va
Fort Monroe Va. Dec. 8th 1866

Dr Wood,
Dear Sir,

Your of the 6th is just received. My "point blank" answer is this: that the A. M. A. has rented what it needs and the Gov't will simply hold the land on which its own property stands. There is much that is uncovered, and fit for cultivation. You can, I think, without difficulty get the full benefit of this. I regret your last terms did not come sooner. Had you, as you might have done, offered this 3 months ago, you would have had by this time the second installment of $5000. Equal to $10,000 cash down now. The Society are tired of this long negotiation, and so am I. What I could a few weeks ago promise, I can only say now might be done - i.e. that the A.M. Miss. Ass. purchase your land (as once already offered) at $20,000, payable $5000 cash down (within 30 days) $5000 at the end of every succeeding quarter - the whole amt in twelve months. I assume you distinctly it will do no more than this, and now it may not do that. These terms are indeed very similar to those in your letter of Dec. 6. If you do not accept this please give your definite refusal.

With Great Respect
Yours

Suffk. 5th Dist. Va.

A. M. A. ARCHIVES
NO HI-98762
FISK UNIV.

Bureau R.F. & A.L.
N. Va. Supt. 5th Disct.
Fort Monroe Va. Mch 1st 1867

Mr Yardley Warner
Dear Sir,

Yours of the 26th ult. is received. Mr Conard has been here, is now absent at Yorktown. I expect him down to-day.

I have positive instructions from Genl. Howard to break up so far as consistent with justice & humanity the camp at Newtown.

The truth is that the colonies about Yorktown are a social disease, and that is in fact healing itself — their population has diminished by half (or nearly that) since the war — they are doomed to dispersion: they cannot be continued unless Govt orders freedmen not to leave them: which is of course absurd. They are melting away rapidly.

My orders are the inevitable and inexorable logic ~~of the restoration policy~~ of the restoration policy. My hope and aim shall be to do that duty as tenderly as possible.

Your Schools will not I think be seriously affected this year. next year they will probably be smaller.

The worst thing is this, the freedmen lose the benefit of Schools, but shall the freedmen come to where there are Schools, or the Schools go to where the freedmen are? They should be & go where they naturally belong, & the good of the schools will in the end be promoted by their being on a proper social & economical basis. I must disagree with you & say that in my opinion the usual objections to camp life and herding, lie against the people settled about Yorktown. I will if possible talk this matter over with Mr Conard, upon his return.

A. M. A. ARCHIVES
NO. HI-9876
FISK UNIV.

Very respectfully
Your Obedt Servt

Supt vc

A. M. A. ARCHIVES
No. H1-99.27a
FISK UNIV.

Bureau R.F. & A.L. Hqrs. Dept. 5th Dist Va.
Fort Monroe Va. Mch 20th 1867

Josiah King Esqr
Dear Sir.

Agreeably to promise I proceed to state the advantages of the Cloud farm as a basis for an Educational institute for freedmen.

This farm has been offered for sale for $20.000 — $10.000 cash down, $5.000 in one year, and the remaining $5.000 in two years - purchaser to pay fee of broker, and incidentals, which will amount to not over $200.00

It lies in Hampton roads, just at the mouth of Hampton Creek. that is about 100 acres of it are thus situated, in the form of an irregular parralelogram. about twice as long as broad. the narrowest side to the water. 60 acres of it lie inland - half a mile from the main portion and are much less valuable than the other part uncleared land from which the timber was cut off during the war - worth, now about $40 - per acre.

Seven acres out of the large lot are taken up by a National Cemetery, which acres Cloud does not propose to convey to the purchaser of this farm, should he give but $20.000 for it. the price of that is between him & government.

This track of land is not only situated favorably, centrally for the large colored population (of 5.000 souls) with a radius of two miles from it, but is a natural geographical centre of the region embraced in a radius of 150 or 200 miles from it, as will be seen by referring to a map — the Nansemond, James, York & Elizabeth rivers, empty into the neighboring Roads. while it is accessible by water from all that

M. A. ARCHIVES
NO. HL-99276
FISK UNIV

section of country drained by streams that flow into the Chesapeake bay; Going & coming with reference to this point is remarkably easy & cheap.

Hence if there is to be a large Educational institute for colored youth who shall be trained to teach their own people — and such teachers are the great demand of the day — where can a better location for it than here be found.

The soil of this farm is excellent — last year it produced the heaviest crop per acre of any farm in the vicinity — its producing power is very highly spoken of by old residents.

It is now largely identified with Education & other interests pertaining to freedmen. — On it the "Butler School house" capable of accommodating over 300 people easily — 275 pupils are now enrolled on its lists. There is also an industrial school which you did not visit, where 200 women have this winter been assisted & taught, in a very comfortable building. also an extensive hospital establishment or "Home for helpless or aged freedpeople" capacity 300 patients (present occupants 110) occupying about 4 acres. a very well appointed affair. The mansion where I reside you will remember, also the brick building on the corner. the one worth about $3,500 the latter cost $2000. These belong to the farm as also 5 or 6 pavilions or hospital wards 140 × 25 ft. containing each some 8000 feet of serviceable lumber. which can be used for school purposes whenever wanted.

The chapel standing in the cemetery lot is held by a Northern religious society & should the sale of the Freedmans Institute demand such a place of worship. this church can be, I am informed, obtained by the Am. Miss. Ass^n. to be its own.

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There are about 250 freedpeople now living on the farm, mostly rent paying tenants. There are many heads of families regularly employed in the Public works at Fort Monroe - or engaged in oystering and fishing, who want & need homestead lots, whereon to build good permanent homes for themselves and children - until they have land of their own there is no encouragement ~~for them~~ to build decent houses and many of them are now living wretchedly in temporary cabins on land rented for current year. They cannot afford to buy town lots, now for sale, because unable to meet the required payments immediate and heavy.

I presume there are not less than one hundred families who would be greatly benefited by being placed upon land of their own - Now should the Wood farm be bought from 40 to 50 acres, of it, could be divided into quarter acre lots and sold to meritorious hard working freedmen under such conditions as would keep off liquor & other improper traffic from this land, & in this way a large proportion of the price of the land would be refunded, or better go towards furthering the ends of humanity & education in this region.

This would be helping those who help themselves - a principle too much neglected in our dealings with freed people.

It is understood that payment for these lots would be made in small amounts - installments until the whole amt. should be paid in - at which time tenants would receive a fee-simple title to their house lots.

To meet a possible objection let me state that this plan would not if carried out cause an abnormal & unhealthy aggregation of freedmen -

M. A. ARCHIVES
NO. HI-9927d
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— it is my especial duty to prevent & discourage such collections, for those who are to have the benefit of it are already established in permanent employment & no others ought to be allowed on the land. Still great caution & prudence ~~must~~ will be requisite to prevent evil consequences, for a darkey is only too ready to enter into obligations no matter how im=portant, so he only has no present trouble to meet.

Suppose these Blacks had been all along free, would not many of them have by this time have owned land? Arbitrarily and by special obstacles have they been kept out of the freehold tenure - Why should not special appropriations be now given as an offset. An opportunity is not a ~~certainty~~ charity, the one is an appeal & inspiration, the other a weight to drag down, an encouragement of pauperism. Excuse the moralising. You do not probably need to know all this - But is it not well that you know. I know it.

You will recall the relation of the Chesapeake Hospital & Female Seminary — to the Wood farm, as lying close to it, and valueless except as an appendage of it

Further the Bureau's time expires on the 16th July. 1868. What it does must be done this Summer - unless it should be continued.

It is therefore the part of wisdom to act - with promptness. no doubt I could get authority to expend 3 or 4,000 next Summer - especially if for any important and extensive institution! I think much more would be allowed by Genl Howard.

I do not believe you need to be

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NO. HI-9927
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convinced of the necessity of ~~the~~ colored teachers for colored schools. Without these the mass of freedchildren must be left without education or privileges. In my own district of ten Counties there ought to be, and there is an actual demand for at least ten large schools. this in the back country at widely separate points. Of course northern ladies cannot go singly into the remote ~~districts~~ sections: and yet just there is the most thrifty and best behaved portion of the people.

Where the candidates for a Normal School are to come from, and how they are to be supported, and whether they will succeed - are interesting questions - but. I think hardly pertinent to the object of this letter.

Let me remark that in my opinion the Wood farm will rise in value - & that unless we act promptly there is danger of withdrawal of terms on the part of the owner - Dr Wood.

With apologies for length and diffuseness of this letter.

I am,
Sincerely Yours
S. C. Armstrong
Supt. V.O.R.C.

P.S. I enclose an estimate - in my opinion quite reliable, of the proportion of Elizabeth City Co - giving particulars &c. (with enclosure)

Taken from Samuel Chapman Armstrong's Copybook.

A. M. A. ARCHIVES
NO. HI-9939a
FISK UNIV.

Bureau R. F. & A. L. Hdqrs. Supt 5th Dist Va.

Fort Monroe Va March 26/67

My dear Miss Southwick

There is great need of a first class English school here — citizens, parents have told me so. Quite a number of those interested are Northern people who are settled; some in Gov't employ — but not a wealthy or independent class — I have sifted the ~~matter~~ thing enough to be satisfied that $2500. can easily be raised — Next Friday evening there is to be a meeting of those interested in order to put the thing through — furnish a guarantee that a certain amount will be raised which will be transmitted to the Soldiers Memorial Society through you — Now by being prompt we can get the school started in two weeks and thus have a long term of it before the weather shall be too warm — till the middle of June —

What I propose is this — that you get the money pledged conditionally and also have the teacher (and by all means do the very best possible in the selection) chosen and notified to be really to march in three days notice — of course she ought understand the situation I will have really by the end of next week a school room completely fitted out with desks accommodations for from 30 to 40 pupils & can provide for 60 or even more. It will have heating apparatus is one of the smaller hospital wards — is situated a few hundred yards from the National cemetery — The only question is this Is this house in the right place — could the school work to good advantage where it is? Some of the children will have to come a good ways. I think it will work: and will afford good school opportunities to say, 20 or 30 children of poor loyal whites — all of whom can however can contribute something — as well receive patronage from several good Northern families: It would probably grow after being planted and well nourished. It is a real need here & you are noble & good to have started it —

A. ARC
NO. H1-9939b
FISK UNIV.

Mr Zelie agt Am. Mis. Assn will receive the lady ~~of color~~ into his family at the Tyler House about 1/4 of a mile from the school house - until she can make permanent arrangements - which can without much trouble be done

Taken from Samuel Chapman Armstrong's Copybook.

Fort Monroe Va.
June 7. 1867

A. M. A. ARCHIVES
NO H1-10298a-1
FISK UNIV.

Col. White.
Dear Sir.

I am informed by Genl. Brown that there is a difficulty between you and Capt. Massey, that in case of any political effort on your part in York County, will cause open hostilities between you — i.e. that you will take ground against Massey, and the General wishes trouble to be avoided.

I hardly understand the case, and therefore write to ask you about it. Is it that Capt. Massey will oppose you, and if so, what is your desire? that he should cease to so oppose, or that he should not only not oppose, but assist you to office or election so far as is in his power?

It is certainly reasonable to ask that he (Massey) offer no opposition or hindrance to you, to insist upon his working for you is certainly very unreasonable, and I cannot believe that you will make that a sine qua non, of a cessation of hostilities.

Still that is entirely your own matter, I write to have a fair understanding of the matter at any rate.

Please let me know as soon as convenient how the case stands.

I understand that Capt. Massey does not fancy you at all, — I think he dislikes you. That is between him and you. I have nothing to say, or ask, but this, Do you propose to "come out" against him in case he agrees to do nothing against you — but yet does not aid you in your efforts to secure an election so far as his Sub-Dist, is concerned. The question as Gen. Brown states it becomes important because Massey's remaining in his present position seems to hinge upon your course towards him.

A. M. A. ARCHIVES
NO. HI-102986
FISK UNIV.

It is due to Massey that he knew this beforehand given his choice.

In short, as I understand matters, he is in your power. What will you do with him? It is simple justice to him that he knew his position – how long he is to hold it – &c. &c., that he may look out for some other way of making a living, which I think he can readily find. Hoping to hear soon,

I am sincerely yours
(signed) G. C. Armstrong.

Taken from Samuel Chapman Armstrong's Copybook

A. M. A. ARCHIVES
NO. HT 1032.30
FISK UNIV.

Camp Hamilton.
June 20th 1867.

Dear Sir;

Yours of the 17th inst. is just received. Your statement that you do not recognize me or my order in the matter of cutting sod on the "Wood Farm" is entirely gratuitous though not at all surprising. I sent you a copy of Genl. Brown's order for your compliance therewith which was the least I could do.

Having no reason to believe that the trespass under your direction would be discontinued, I requested you on the 17th inst. to inform me of your proposed course in the matter, and sent an orderly for the answer, who brought a response in a form that no reasonable or polite request should have received.

In this connection, I beg leave to state that there having been an authorized Agent of the Am. Miss. Ass^n (Mr. Felix) at this place it was in my opinion a great discourtesy not to have consulted him in the matter.

I cannot believe that Gen. Schofield would approve of the spirit of the course pursued by you.

I am
Yours &c.
(Signed) S. C. Armstrong.

Col. T. G. Whytal.

Richmond, Va., Nov 11th 1867.

A. M. A. ARCHIVES
NO. HI-10542a
FISK UNIV.

Rev Geo Whipple

Dr Sir

Although I do not know the exact duties of a Supervisor of your Schools on the Peninsula I suspect they are only such as every good Bureau Officer would perform toward the Schools within his District — If I understand the matter I fully approve of your plan that "Genl Armstrong shall take the direct supervision and control of your School at and near Fort Monroe" (of course not to go beyond the limits of his Sub District)

Part of the original of this has been excised. The signature of General Orlando Brown appears on reverse side of the sheet. The excised part was taken from the top of the sheet, which probably included General Brown's letterhead. Persumably, there was a paragraph at the top of this letter on the reverse side, and this paragraph, together with the letterhead on the front, was cut off just above General Brown's signature.

Clifton H. Johnson
Archivist
Amistad Research Center
January 16, 1969

ORIGINAL ON FILE AT HAMPTON INSTITUTE

Rev. E. N. KIRK, D. D., President.
Wm. B. WHITING, Ass't Treasurer.
EDW. P. SMITH, Gen'l Field Agent.

AMERICAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION,

Secretaries,
Rev. GEORGE WHIPPLE, N. Y.
Rev. M. E. STRIEBY, N. Y.
Rev. J. R. SHIPHERD, Chicago.

A. M. A. ARCHIVES
NO. H1-105 492
FISK UNIV.

No. 53 JOHN STREET,

New York, November 13th 1867.

This certifies that
The American Missionary Association
has appointed
Gen. S. C. Armstrong Superintendent
of its schools at Fortress Monroe, (Va.) and
vicinity, including all its schools in the district,
under his care as an officer of the Freedmen's Bureau.

We do therefore, by these presents, commend him
to the respect of all persons in his department
acting under commission of this Association,
asking for him the deference and attention due
to the Superintendent of our schools.

On behalf of the Ex. Com. of the A. M. A.

Geo. Whipple
M. E. Strieby } Cor. Sec'ys.

ORIGINAL ON FILE AT HAMPTON INSTITUTE

A. M. A. ARCHIVES
NOH1-11293a
FISK UNIV.

BRANCH OFFICE,
Freedman's Savings and Trust Company,
Banking House, Burruss, Harrison & Co's Building,
No. 14 MAIN STREET.

NORFOLK, VA., May 30, 1868.

Gen. S. C. Armstrong.

My dear Sir:-

I am requested by Rev. Geo. Whipple, to forward you the indorsed release of Thos. R. Ballentine in his favor and to request that you will at once have the same recorded in Elizabeth City County, and afterward the same to Mr. Whipple at 53. John St. N. York.

Please acknowledge the receipt.

Yours very truly,

H. C. Percy

ORIGINAL ON FILE AT HAMPTON INSTITUTE

A. M. A. ARCHIVES
NO. HI-11490a
FISK UNIV.

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & A. Lands,
Head Quarters A. & A. Comm 2nd Div 5th D. Dist Va
Yorktown, Va October 28th 1868.

General S. C. Armstrong
S. A. Comm 5th D Dist Va
Hampton, Va

General:

I have the honor to transmit herewith an application from Miss H. C. Shield, for a school at Yorktown Va

I can assure you that Miss S. is competant to teach and that she will take an interest in the same.

Her entire family with the exception of one will be down on her and partially prescribe her. Give her the schools. Miss S. is about 22 years of age and has large force of character. Having the displeasure of her relatives proves it. They are F.F.V's. I am Grateful,

(over)

ORIGINAL ON FILE AT HAMPTON INSTITUTE

With great respect
Your most obedient ~~servant~~
Henry E. W. Ayres,
A. S. A. Comm'r
2nd Div 5th S. Det Va

A. M. A. ARCHIVES
NO 41-1149.0.0
FISK UNIV.

Bureau R. F. and A. Lands,

Head Qrs. 3d Dist, 5th Sub, Dist, Va.

Mathews C.H. Va. Nov. 16. 1868.

A. M. A. ARCHIVES
NO. HI-11545a
FISK UNIV.

S. C. Armstrong,

Sub Asst Comm. 5th Sub Dist Va.

Sir

Reaching Gloucester C.H. Sunday A.M. I was informed of there being no meeting on that day at the Bethel Church (whither I was bound, to arrange with the people of that district for the support of a Teacher,) "that all the folks had gone over to the Glebe." Believing this to be the case I faced about and went over to the Glebe. Arr., and in the expectation of meeting with some and perhaps the leading members of the Bethel. But as it turned out, to find of all the number there assembled only two were present from the Bethel, and to learn from them that there was a meeting at their church also. As a ride then over to the Bethel would add sixteen miles to a journey of forty one, I concluded to remain and see what might be accomplished with the Glebe people towards supporting a Teacher. I then opened the matter by explaining what was necessary to be done and what was required of them towards assuaging the cause of education in their midst. This was the origin of a

ORIGINAL ON FILE AT HAMPTON INSTITUTE

A. M. A. ARCH.
NO. HI-115436
FISK UNIV.

tireless and protracted debate and which was terminated by the Majority determining that the School should be permitted to run in the Church building as contemplated from the outset, and not as the Minority would have it located, "away down in the Piney Swamp region." This over the subject of supporting a Teacher was brought up. It is sufficient to say that but very few, an inadequate number, were found ready, then, to assume the responsibility of supporting a Teacher, and a carrying on of the School to the extent proposed. Another week of time for reflection was solicited before committing themselves to "hazardous an undertaking" Calling to mind an old adage "You may lead the horse to the fountain, but you cannot compell him to drink," I was loath to grant the boon of another week's delay, and left for home a little annoyed at my want of success, but not disheartened, To day I again visited Gloucester Co. and called at the house of James Lemon to ascertain what had been done by the members of the Bethel, Lemon was away from home cycling in Berkeley. From his house I rode on four miles further to learn from Beverly Burrel what had been done, or what his neighbors proposed to do towards supporting a Teacher, He says they had a meeting on the subject yesterday (Sunday) but with this result, that only four

A.M.E. ARCHIVES
NO. HI-113450
FISK UNIV.

men of his neighborhood manifested any willingness to do anything towards supporting a Teacher, including himself James Lemon, Thomas and James Morris. The latter named person pledging himself to furnish the fuel that might be needed, "more or less than anticipated" He also informed me of Lemon saying that he (Lemon) would have a Teacher on his own responsibility and would compell his people to pay him back every dollar he might so expend for their benefit. I am to have a letter from Lemon & Burrit (Wednesday) Tomorrow, in reply to a proposal made to Burrit today by myself. It is thus that Matters now stand in Glo. Co. It seems like presuming upon your patience to ask you to hold on to the Teacher you have with you a day or two longer for us. Say till you hear from me by mail of Thursday. This will enable me to give you a decided reply relative to the Bethel District. Therefore I ask your further indulgence.

My Respectfully
Your Obt Servt
Thomas J Rice
A. L. A. Comd.

A. M. A. ARCHIVES
NO. HI-11586a
FISK UNIV.

~~Nov.~~ 1868
~~apr 13th~~

(Copy)

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen & Abandoned Lands
Head Quarters Assistant Comr, Dist of Va
Richmond, Va, Dec 30th 1868

Rev. Geo Whipple
Sec Am. Miss Ass.
53 John St. N.Y.

Dear Sir

Bot Maj: Geo. L. White, Capt 44th U.S.C.T. Chf. D.C. of this Bureau, was yesterday instructed to expend the sum Seventeen hundred and fifty Dollars ($1750) in repairs upon the "Agricultural Department" of the "Normal and Agricultural Institute" at Hampton Va.

Yours truly
(signed) O Brown
Asst. Comr.

Gen. S. C. Armstrong
Hampton, Va.

Dear Gen. I send you the above copy of a letter rec'd this day from Gen. Brown. May we have grace and wisdom, to discharge aright the trust reposed in us. Yours truly
Geo. Whipple

ORIGINAL ON FILE AT HAMPTON INSTITUTE

A. M. A. ARCHIVES
NO HI-116024
FISK UNIV.

Johnsontown Va.
Dec. 4. 1868

Dear Bro'

I have been up the County nearly two weeks, consequently did not get the letter of Mr. Wilfley you sent me until to day.

When I was coming home I met a Colored lady by the name of Phely Henson on her way to Drummondtown with a commission from the A. M. A. As the place was filled I advised her to go to Onancock, which she did.

As you suggested, I write to Mr. Wilfley to come as there are still other places to which the teacher at Drummondtown can go. There is a house all completed at Chincoteague four miles this side of Hartstown, it is the best freedmans school house on the peninsula should neither of the new schoolhouses be completed by the time Mr. Wilfley comes Mr. Allen can go there

Yours Truly

R. D. White

Original on file at Hampton Institute

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & Abandoned Lands.
Head Qurs A. S. A. Comm 2nd Div 6th Sub Dist Va
Yorktown, Va Dec. 28th 1868.

Genl S. C. Armstrong
S. A. Comm &c
Hampton.

A. M. A. ARCHIVES
NO H1-11645a
FISK UNIV.

General:

I have the honor to inform you in reply to your communication of 24th ult. as follows:

Tork Magruder Thomas Gibbons. P. O. Williamsburg
Williamsburg James Dawson. " " "
Yorktown Com Van Buskerck " Yorktown

Mr. Van Buskerck is the only proper person I can recommend that will keep your property posted in regard to schools throughout York, James City & Warwick Counties, he being County clerk of York co and sound union man.

Very respectfully
your obedient servt
Henry K. W. Apes
A. S. A. Comm
2nd Div 6th S. Dist Va

ORIGINAL ON FILE AT HAMPTON INSTITUTE

A. M. A. ARCHIVES
NO. HH1889a
FISK UNIV.

Hampton March 11th 1869

My dear Sir;

May I ask you to be so kind as to return to me the letter I wrote you in reply to yours of March 3rd. I omitted to take a copy of it and wish to do so. It was written last Monday. It may be promptly returned as soon as convenient. Please regard as confidential.

I hope the very painful state of things now existing may be soon cleared up, and I believe so thoroughly in your tenderness and justice that I am confident you can reestablish pleasant relations with those who are now so deeply pained by the course you have taken.

Can you imagine how painfully and bitterly, the least, not to say the strongest, imputation of "overbearing control" or of "wishing to rule for the deepest needs of the heart, or of unjust appropriation of time or of some or other peculiarity, is received by those who have given all their hearts and their best talents, their entire energy of their

ORIGINAL ON FILE AT HAMPTON INSTITUTE

A. M. A. ARCHIVES
NO. HH-118896
FISK

means, who have done what they could (perhaps a sacred and blessed service) — who have enjoyed little cordiality and suffered much cold stinging treatment from those of the very class you respect so much as being so ready to lift up and relieve the low and degraded.

What is the story of the ordinary class of women who have gone South? They have generally worked like martyrs and (have they not) quarreled like cats. There are glorious exceptions, many of them: but I have long, as you know, felt and very often written and spoken of the necessity of a higher range of capacity and character in the Normal teachers at any rate.

Sad experience of mediocre women compelled me to look higher.

Then consider what our cultivated women have done during the war, and are doing in all our cities. I believe you have done them, as a class, deep injustice in your letter of March 3rd. — as well as the noble women who are here.

Permit me here to state that when some weeks ago I wrote Miss

A. M. A. ARCHIVES
NO. 141-11889c
FISK UNIV.

Celia Williams on Miss Brock's departure to take charge of the girls and of the Boarding Dept. She accepted for temporarily, said in effect that I could not get a respectable Northern woman to do that drudgery, and objected to giving up any of her classes although she seriously went over and saw Griggs Hall in excellently. She seemed to fail of comprehending that position — I know well that Miss Brock never fully comprehended it; it was a wearied drudgery — but I always believe it to be a work which began deepest in dirt degradation, almost pollution, and ended, with good management, terminate in far higher more valuable results than any of those of the school room.

I always have felt the want of full appreciation of her position both on Miss Brock's & Miss Williams' part and recently resolved, when I went north, to show them that a first rate woman could take that position.

A. M. A. ARCHIVES
NO. HI-11889d
FISK UNIV.

It needs a woman of capacity, breadth, and culture to do the Briggs Hall justice; it needs a fine organizing, disciplinary mind, tact, keen quick insight and one whose strong true symmetrical simple character shall quietly act upon the students and be in reality their best instruction.

In the name of humanity and, sum of good sense, let us give these simple ignorant people the highest highest light we can find, and that it is such light that has always shone, never will shine most deeply into the dark places of the earth.

I have seen many missionaries - and I know that the few women of culture in the Hawaiian mission were needed to redeem the narrowness and bigotry of their weaker sisters who, to day have no influence, and were cared even the scattered homage ever & every where paid by Hawaiians to the missionary ladies of refinement & culture.

I wish to do justice the long and faithful services of the Misses Williams.

A. M. A. ARCHIVES
NO. HI-11889e
FISK UNIV.

and have done remarkably well

They have done their best for many months;

Whether they have acted seriously, very seriously, in their course lately, and prejudiced the interests of the School by student dislike of Miss Bacon & their difficulty & their sympathy with disaffected scholars; and by not cooperating cordially with the Industrial work.

But understand me distinctly I have no charge to make against them, until I have known their whole course of late, & have heard their whole case, & until they shall have had a chance to say what they choose about it. in all personal matters

My course over against them, I have no desire to conceal; they are entitled to as much, & equally, as I; and let them have it, if you choose, if they request it; and if this has been handed me.

Let us go to the bottom of things — for the sake of justice and for the salvation of our work — & to do this I must have the statements concerning this school from whatever source I have received you.

Yours very truly

S. C. Armstrong

Of course if you send any such letters or statements to me, I shall return it — and with this knowledge the whole affair will be settled.

Miss Bacon is unmistakably in error

ORIGINAL ON FILE AT HAMPTON INSTITUTE

THE AMERICAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION, (CENTRAL OFFICE, 53 JOHN STREET, NEW YORK,) has been working twenty years for the African race. Since the beginning of the Rebellion it has turned special attention to the Freedmen. Whatever a wise Christian benevolence prompts in their behalf, by way of Common Schools, Normal Schools, Orphan Homes, Relief for the suffering, and direct religious effort, the Association undertakes, to the full extent of the means furnished by the friends of the colored people.

S. C. ARMSTRONG, Principal. D. D. DODGE, Supt.

AMERICAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION,

Normal School,

Hampton, Va.....186

A. M. A. ARCHIVES NO. HI-1265 FISK UNIV.

Copies of Vouchers for Material & Services forwarded to Rev. Geo. Whipple April 12 1870

Materials —

25 Kegs nails @ 5.50	137.50
" Beds & Mouldings	200.00
" 500 lbs. lime	70.00
" 246 lbs. putty	14.50
" Window sashes	200.00
1030 lbs. Iron	103.00
100 bbl. Cement @ 2.75	275.00
	$1000.00

Services

To labor of 10 Carpenters @ two dollars per day for Jan. Feb. March 1870 working 75 days @ $1500.00

S. C. Armstrong

Copy of above (for legibility) 1/3/68

Copies of vouchers for material & services forwarded to Rev. Geo. Whipple April 12,1870

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To labor of 10 carpenters @two dollars per day for Jan. Feb. March 1870 working 75 days @ _____ $1500.00

S. C. Armstrong

John H. Evans

(Original on file at Hampton Institute)

A. M. A. ARCHIVES
NO. HI-1334 1/B
FISK UNIV.

Hampton, Va., April 18. 1869

Gen. Armstrong,

Dear Sir.

I have been requested to write to you a letter concerning the division made in the dining-room between the white and colored teachers of the school, as I feel, or as I look at it. Now I shall write not from a mere sense of feeling but from principle, as I look at it. This question is often asked by others who meet us when out from here, and while we always answer in the best way, we can

in the favor of the school,
we know of no good-
reason, for this division.
.. We do not expect to
gain any thing by
eating in the dining-
room with you nor are
we anxious to eat with
you, but the real principle
upon which this division
is made, we do not under-
stand, we have been
taught habits and —
manners by you, and
you say we are qualified
to fill responsible positions
in which you have placed
us equal to that of the
white man and yet
this division is made.
Why is it? is it because

that we are offensive because of our color? I can hardly belive this is a good reason.

But this question is with you to decide, now you asked in what way would we like the change be made, I, should there a change be made am not in favor of being dealt with as a class, but as indiniduals, if we are to be dealt with as a class, then let us remain where we are.

Now I hope this will meet your approbation.

Very respectfully.

John H. Evans

S. C. ARMSTRONG, PRINCIPAL. F. N. GILMAN, TREASURER.

(ORIGINAL ON FILE AT HAMPTON INSTITUTE)

Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute.

A. M. A. ARCHIVES NO. Hi-133418 FISK UNIV.

Hampton, Va., Apr. 20 1889

Gen. S. C. Armstrong.

Dear Sir:

I read your letter to the ladies and gentlemen at our table and told them somewhat of of the conversation you had had with me concerning the matter under consideration and it seemed the wish of all to write a candid and open letter as you desired. It was the unanimous opinion that in order that each one of us might give his entirely independent thought, it would be best that we should not discuss the matter among ourselves, but each write ignorant of what the others' ideas might be. I believed you would prefer free, individual opinions than opinions that might be influenced by the words of others.

I have given a good deal of thought to the race problem in the past one or two years and the more I think of it the more I can realize the difficulties in the way of its solution. A knowledge of these difficulties makes me also see the numerous sides that must be looked at in the matter of any change in our present boarding arrangements.

The seeming discrimination between the white and Negro employees on the place has always furnished to outsiders a topic for discussion that has been far from pleasant to us; it has caused people who I know are friendly to the school much regret that the authorities have seen fit to draw such a line between its two classes of employees; it has placed us resident graduates before even our friends and fellow Alumni in a position of continual defense of the attitude assumed by the school towards us, and I beg to state here that it has been by no means easy for us to defend, at all times, the action of the school and to give to our friends satisfactory reasons for that action. Speaking of the Alumni reminds me of conversations that have been held between different ones of the most useful and respected of the school's graduates. These men and women who are counted among the most level headed of the school's sons and daughters — persons who I have reasons to believe are not only universally respected by those of the school's authorities acquainted with them, but also by their several communities as well — have had a great deal of their love and regard for their Alma Mater taken away by the course the school has pursued towards its boarding graduates. Prominent men of our race whom I have met in various places

A. M. A. ARCHIVES
NO. HI-13341C
FISK UNIV.

have often inquired why such an apparent difference should exist in the treatment between the whites and Negroes here in an Institution that they seemed to think should take the lead in wiping out just such differences. I have heard of white persons who have seemed at a loss to account for the same thing. Information has come to me that some of the teachers upon their initiation into the work here have inquired "why the difference?"; and while, as a matter of course they have accepted things as they found them the fact that such a question should be asked by a portion of the teachers, shows, it seems to me, that the question is by no means an impertinent one. I simply mention all this to give some idea of how other people than ourselves, are in many instances, inclined to look at the matter.

It has seemed to me during my four years of employment here, that the arrangement which we have been under has had the tendency to induce the white employees to look upon us with somewhat of contemptuous condescension, and graduates to look upon us with something akin to scorn because of the apparent lack of independence on our part as shown by our quiet acceptance of the "setting of us aside" by the authorities. It has given to many people the idea (and I have often heard it expressed) that a graduate is kept here more for effect

than for the value of his services "and many have wondered if the Negro's work is of any real value to the Institution "and if so, are his services appreciated.

It has been very humiliating to me at times when prominent and representative men of our race have been here to feel that we could be on terms of equality with the rest of the employees in all respects until we reached the dining room, and then be compelled, after escorting them (these prominent gentlemen) around the place to separate. Of course I know that under such circumstances they are your guests and there would be a separation at any rate, but we are not called upon at all times to explain to them the reason we have to go to another quarter of the place, "and these men, knowing our position here, wonder why we do not appear among the other employees of the school in the dining room as we do in our several departments of work.

And now, the things I have mentioned not only put the boarding graduates in an unpleasant position but they put the school before many people in a role that I don't think belongs to it; they lead many of the school's best wishers to believe that you favor the drawing of the "color line"; they have led people to say "your Principal has become thoroughly Southernized"; they have led persons to

A. M. A. ARCHIVES
NO. HA-12341C
FISK UNIV.

because the school of adopting in the North a policy that it does not sustain in the South. I repeat that I know these things are not true of the school, but I do not have the opportunity to explain to these people what I know, nor do any of us, so in their minds the question remains an open one.

I have thus far considered the matter from the standpoint of people who are mere lookers on,-people whose opinions either one way or the other will have no effect, possibly, upon the work of the school, but whose opinions are nevertheless occasionally very cutting to ~~both~~ the dignity of the resident graduate and not productive of the love for the Institution that we wish to feel.

To look at it from your own standpoint the matter, I know, presents an altogether different side. Bringing it to a plain point, the throwing of the Negro and white teachers employees together in the manner suggested, that is, by scattering the graduates among the teachers in the dining room, would seem to you to break down all other social barriers and pave the way to intermarriage between the two races. Looking at it in the light of such a possibility it is not to be wondered at, that, as the head of a representative institution, and as a moulder

of public sentiment, you should shrink from introducing or giving countenance to any measure that should probably result in what seems to me to be such an undesirable thing as the intermarriage or amalgamation of the races. If I thought such an end would result from the different arrangement of things I should vigorously oppose any change that should favor such an end; for I am as much opposed to the intermarriage or amalgamation of the races as any white person in the land. It has long been my opinion that your attitude in the matter of the graduates has not been taken because of prejudice or because of individual feeling towards us, but from a feeling of necessity, to prevent, in so far as lay in your power, such a condition of things mentioned above.

But from a graduate's point of view, he sees no probability of the bringing about of such a state of things by a freer intercourse between the graduates and white teachers and employees. He feels that a mutual aversion to such a departure from the "nature" of things would serve to prevent any thing of the kind. It is my candid opinion that the matter presents a darker side in theory than would be shown in practice. In support of my opinion I would cite Fisk University, Oberlin College, Berea College,

A. M. A. ARCHIVES
NO. HI-13341 D
FISK UNIV.

and Roger Williams and Howard Universities,—institutions where, I understand, not only does no difference exist between the white and Negro employees, but the white and Negro students fare alike in all respects; I have yet to hear of the evil effects resulting from the course pursued by those Schools.

The graduates feeling that he is morally, at least, and in some cases intellectually the equal of numerous of the white teachers and employees, can not see why there should be even any seeming discrimination. If the difference is made because of his color, he believes it a grievous wrong; if the difference is made because of his lack of refinement and of social polish, he would most respectfully ask, would it not help him greatly in that line to place him among people who have had such advantages that they are naturally refined and polished? Is it unreasonable to believe that he would rise to the height of his surroundings?

Now, I come to the questions you ask in particular, but I think what I have already said will give an idea of my sentiments. Our present boarding arrangements are very pleasant for us in that it gives an opportunity for a freer intercourse and cultivation of close friendships between the graduates at meals; I have no word to offer against our treatment as regards

food or accommodations; in fact I have no "vigorous protest" to make whatever, though this feature of seeming discrimination is an ever recurring source of humiliation and irritation. I should not like to have our table go as a table into your dining room; it would, it seems to me, only give more prominence to the fact of the division between us. If there should be any change made I should prefer a scattering of the graduates among the teachers even at the sacrifice of our little "family" arrangement. But right here I would most earnestly beg, that if in the future – no matter how far distant – any such change is contemplated, before it is made, you would if possible ascertain if there be a single objection on the part of the teachers to such a change. I think that however humiliating it might be to feel that we are discriminated against it would be infinitely more humiliating for us to feel that we are in any way, in a matter of this kind, being forced upon people and in places where we are not wanted.

And now General, in conclusion let me say that I think you will find that we "demand" nothing, nor do we even request anything as regards the matter under consideration; I certainly do not, but am willing to leave it all to you.

With very great respect, I am,

Yours sincerely, Harris Barrett.

H. Barrett

(Original on file at Hampton Institute)

The Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute.
C. Armstrong, Principal. F. N. Gilman, Treasurer.

A. M. A. ARCHIVES
NO. HI-13341E
FISK UNIV.

Hampton, Va., April, 19-1889-

Dear Gen. Armstrong:

Your letter to our table was a very great surprise to us all. I almost wish you had not asked my opinion on such a matter: still as you did it is only my duty to give it.

I shall do as all of us have agreed to do — give only my own thoughts concerning the question under discussion. You don't care if I speak my plain.

To say that I think it just & right that we should be shut off in the manner we are, by our selves would

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be not unfair. Down deep in my heart there has always been a rebellion at such a step. To me it has always appeared wrong and unjust, not only as a class but individually. It has shall it ever be acknowledged that we are men and women with equal rights and privileges with other creatures "created in God's own image", if such be denied us here? In white schools there is no such distinction made as regards the graduates and teachers of those institutions and I cannot see why it should be done here. In submitting to such measures we certainly compromise our manhood and woman-

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bird. It's know it's fun it isn't lonely every day of our life.

It impresses me as being a very peculiarly kind of Christianity which enables folks to leave their homes, relatives and friends & come and labor for and with the Negro and yet make it one impossibility for them & summon up enough respect and unprejudiced friendship to eat at the same table with him.

Right here, I'd like to mention a certain argument I've heard from time & time. Men would speak of this school in the most unkind words - denounce it in strongest language. On de-

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rounding an explanation; I'd receive answer to this effect, "Miss Peake, we never intend giving our aid & support any institution where the Negro is taught: that he is less than any other man." To corroborate their statements our dining room, its location and surroundings were cited. Knowing perfectly well that they only spoke the truth I could offer no word in my Alma Mater's defence.

Should we leave our present dining room, we would have much & continua with that is unpleasant. I am sure that in the beginning at any rate, we could not

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have half the fun or pleasure which is now ours. The knowledge of being where we are so emphatically not wanted will not be very flattering to say the least. - but that is only of our secondary importance. Believing as I do such proceedings to be ~~xxxxxxx~~ wrong - unfair - unjust, I am willing to sacrifice my own personal feelings that we may obtain what is but justly ours.

It is to be regretted, though, that if we come in another table will have to go out. Might it not be possibly arranged otherwise?

Now with me arises the question, whether we come as

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as a table, or as individuals. I cannot see that coming as a table would have any tendency whatever to cancel the "color line". I think such would only make our position more marked. It is not necessary that we should be "jumped" according to color. There can be no mistaking that we are "graduates" (and I almost hate the term) We carry our diplomas on our faces.

As far as we are concerned I am sure we'd much rather remain where we are but in my estimation the question has assumed quite a different aspect from one of mere personal likes and dislikes. Any step that

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tends raise any profile & thus
right I am in favor of and am
willing to sacrifice my own im-
mediate pleasure for.

This question is one which
has very many sides I admit.
I suppose there may seem to
you the very best reasons why
a change should not be made.
I do not know what those
reasons are hence cannot
deal with them. I think
though that this is about
the only school of this kind
in the country where there
is such a gulf between
the employes. I think to
that it is altogether unnecessa-
ry.

I think I need not
dwell longer on this - I think

Sara Peake

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know more just about how I feel concerning this subject.

I remain
Respectfully yours
Sara F. Peake

To
Gen. S. C. Armstrong

Georgia Washington

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(Original on file at Hampton Institute.)

A. M. A. ARCHIVES
NO. H1-1334M
FISK UNIV.

Hampton Inst.
April 17, 1889.

Gen. S. C. Armstrong,
Dear Sir,
While everything is quiet and pleasant in our little dining room, and I feel reluctant, even at the thought of disturbing our table, still from a question of principle, it ought to be done.

We are here in position of trust, and are called teachers and assistants, in the various dept. of the school, if we fail to fill these places we are dropped out.

It seems to me, that if I am efficient enough to help the same students that the white teachers are helping, and I am here for that purpose, I ought also to share tables with them.

Not that I especially want to sit at the same table or be in the dining room with the white teachers; for I am afraid I wouldn't get a very warm or hearty welcome from them; but taking our school with its large corps of Christ loving and Christ working men and women, does it seem just right to you and to them that a wall should stand between

us? Now Gen. the question that has constantly come to my mind, since your regiment was ready, is, if everything is all right and you feel that the present arrangement is the best for us, why need we write these letters?

There must be a doubt some where.

Respectfully yours
Georgia Washington.

A. M. A. ARCHIVES
NO. HI-13341N
FISK UNIV.

(From letter copybook of Samuel Chapman
Armstrong on file at Hampton Institute.)

With Messrs
Beagle
Sands
Messrs Boyle
William
and Co
at
My dear fr
of the race fr
ers and feel
expressions be
would give a bette
will as gone.
Will

A. M. A. ARCHIVES
NO. HI-133410
FISK UNIV.

Office 13

ie Washington
h Peake and
y Jim Barrett
iam Wheelock
Evans:
t Graduate table
friends:
I think much
problem before
feel that frank
between as by
better understanding
ne.
Will each year

finally write me a letter
expressing your feeling
in regard to your present
boarding arrangements — being
suggestive in a separate
form?? Would it add
to your pleasure a comfort
to exchange with one of the
teachers tables which stand
so into the room you occupy,
and you go into the teachers
dining room as a table??
I cannot not object to changing
with you with my table.
What cause you
think of being scattered
[illegible] tables unless

taken by journalists?

Now that I am
in pleasant not a
kind of complaint coming
come true for a long time,
and feeling that ~~they~~ is
a highly commendable
thing any one can, I think
it a good time to ask
these questions and write
second answer

Yours very sincerely
P B Pinchback

A. M. A. ARCHIVES
NO. H1-13341
FISK UNIV.

(Original on file at Hampton Institute)

(1874-1875)

FISK UNIV. N.A.M.A. ARCHIVES

Gen. Armstrong Sir We as members of Senior Cottage and its court feeling that the case of F. Douglass was not carried to you in its proper form and that it was not by the consent of the court but rather by a great abridgment of our rights. We therefore petition for said case for a legal trial. We feel that our rights should be respected so long as we are recognized as a court but we can not think that our court has any authority where cases are wrested from us as present.

E. A. White
E. A. Bird
Robt. Kelser
A. W. Calvin
R. B. Jackson
W. T. Williams
G. Forbes
Warren Logan

[OVER]

W. M. Ing.
W. R. Lenthank
W. M. Reid
R. J. G. Matthews
Isaac E. Harrison
Alfred Moore
W. A. Forsyth
Geo. B. Bradley
Robert Simon
[illegible] D. Davis
[illegible]
B. T. Washington
J. C. Robbins
J. Berger

A. M. A. ARCHIVES
NO. III-13341 R
FISK UNIV.

As employes of the school, I think we ought to treated as individuals and not as a class.

As long as you keep us at a table together from no choice of our own, and separate from the rest of the employes of the school, we can't help but feel that you make a difference between them and us which I think ought not to be.

Original on file at Hampton Institute)

A. M. A. ARCHIVES
NO. HH33415
FISK UNIV.

Normal School,
Hampton, Va.,
April 9, 1889.

Gen. Armstrong,
Dear Sir,

In reply to yours of last week I can say that I am equally anxious as yourself to see some of these race questions solved.

Now as regards your proposition that our table be moved into the large dining room and that its place be filled by

by one from that room. I do not approve.

In the first the first place I dont think there ought to be any separation between us, whatever, unless it is impossible or too inconvenient to make the two rooms one.

Again I do not think we should be moved as a class to any place. Nor do I believe we ought to be separated as a class from all or any portion of the employes of the

school.

Your second proposition, that of being scattered around, I like and think the rest at the table would like it also. As to whether we would be happier can only be answered by having tried it.

I believe that every one at our table enjoys the company of all present in the highest sense, yet if it were otherwise he could not change owing to the present arrangements.

authorities of the school say we are not worthy of it.

I have had little experience as a graduate, yet I noticed that at Storer College nothing has happened to the detriment of either teachers or students, where all eat together.

If the great question is ever to be solved, I think the places to begin it are those places which are moulding thought

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The fact that we are graduates ought to have nothing to do with our place at meals.

We should be placed not as graduates but as employes and individuals wherever the person in charge chooses to put us as is done with the other employes.

I think you will agree with me that as long as we are separated from you without better reasons

thing have been given that there can not exist the proper feeling toward you.
I do not think we should be blamed for this feeling as the distinction naturally arouses some thought.
I regret that in this case that it is of an unpleasant nature.
We are all laboring toward one end.
I imagine that you attach some value to our services. Our fare is the same.
Now unless there is a decided dislike

on the part of one party or the other, I can see no reason for separation.

I do not favor staying where we are as a body nor going anywhere else in the same manner. I do favor being sealed as the rest of the employees.

Aside from the chagrin to which we are subjected by outsiders, it is a standing source of humiliation here in school. Sir, you cannot expect the employees to give us the due amount of respect when the

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FISK UNIV.

and sentiment among the Negroes. If he is qualified to help do this when he leaves here, I can't see why he cannot make some attempt at it here. This like charity should begin at home, I think.

I have said the above perfectly coolly and without any ill feeling to yourself or any individual. While I dislike the condition of things, I hold no one person responsi-

T. B. Williams

ble for it all.

I hope that you may see fit to make the change I propose and thus remove us from a position which is to us very humiliating. This I believe would do a great deal to heighten the respect for the school at least among those for whom you are working.

Very respectfully,
T. B. Williams.

(Original on file at Hampton Institute)

A. M. A. ARCHIVES
NO. III-13941
FISK UNIV.

Hampton, Va. Apr. 20, 1889.

General S. C. Armstrong,
Dear Sir;

Your letter of last week, requesting an expression of individual opinion concerning our present boarding arrangements, and also the probability of a change, was read by me.

I shall try to sketch briefly what I have thought upon it.

My experience as a graduate has been limited, but even while a student, I could not understand why two separate departments were made for teachers and officers of the same institution.

It was my good fortune to spend two winters in Atlanta, Ga. before coming here, and while there I often visited the Atlanta University, and found that no such distinction was made, not even between teachers and students. There the system of education tended rather to draw out the individuality of the student, ~~rather~~ than crush it by setting a boundary and saying "thus far shalt thou go and

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no farther.

In accepting the situation, I did it with the same feelings experienced by a good many orthodox Christian in accepting the mysteries of the Bible - not daringto question the wisdom and superior judgement of those in authority, but hoping that some day the situation would be made clear.

It was not long before I learned that present arrangement was not altogether satisfactory to the Graduates, causing them to be subjected to many a humiliating criticism, both from those within as well as outsiders.

How to solve the question and make a change that would be satisfatory to all concerned, is quite puzzling; I would not like the idea of being removed into the other dining room at a table, because that would only make us the more conspicuous, and be the cause of attracting more criticism.

Then again I would feel loth to part with my old table mates, and be scattered around.

So far there is a congenial spirit existing among

A. M. A. ARCHIVES
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FISK UNIV.

us which I can never hope to experience should I be separated from them. However the case may be, the latter plan is the bitter, and while I would feel reluctant to part with my old friends, I would try to conduct myself so as not to be obnoxious to any one, but rather to be worthy of the respect of all.

Very respectfully yours,
F. D. Whelock.

F. D. Whitlock

(Original on deposit at Hampton Institute)

A. M. A. ARCHIVES
NO. HH33417
FISK UNIV.

Hampton Va.
Aug. 22d. '85

Whereas, the Acting Faculty of the Normal and Agricultural Institute, by appropriating the "Graduate" kitchen to the use of other courses in said Institution, to the inconvenience of the original possessors, by declaring it an impossibility to prepare all meals in "Graduate" kitchen; and by quietly and presumptuously arranging with boarding houses for table accommodation for the "Graduates," without any consultation as to their wishes or feelings, has shown by such action, that it presupposes that the undersigned, as "Graduates," have no rights, which they are bound to respect, that there is no spark of manhood in them which the Faculty is bound, by the ordinary usages of cultured society, to acknowledge;

And, whereas, by submitting

A. M. A. ARCHIVES
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ourselves to such indignities and abuses, we show our convincing convenience in any action that tends to rob manhood, self-respect, and common decency, of its life blood—

Be It Resolved, I, That, when the occasion presents itself, we, respectfully, but firmly resent any imposition or discourtesy shown to us by the Identity, pro tempore, of the Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute.

II. That, when the time comes, we show our high appreciation of the insult offered, by objecting to be set adrift, at will, by our co-workers.

Signed Geo. W. Davis.
R. S. Hamilton
Alice Jones.
J. W. Kirby
J. Riley Gunnell
Harris Burkett.
Lucy A. Mayo.
H. C. Dunger